

And so you said, “I would like to see two states before I get out of office.” Not true. I’d like to see two states. And if it happens before I get out of office, I’ll be there to witness the ceremony. And if it hadn’t—if it doesn’t, we will work hard to lay that foundation so that the process becomes irreversible.

Timetables are, you know, interesting—an interesting thing. Everybody wants a timetable, it seems like, on different issues. And these are very complicated matters where years of conflict and years of mistrust are being resolved by some basic truths. And one of the basic truths is free societies are peaceful societies. And so we can look forward to working with a partner in peace, a person who said, “Vote for me. I’m for peace,” and a man who declares his understanding that the Palestinian people, the long-suffering Palestinian people, will be well served by a democracy, a truly functioning democracy.

And so, Mr. President, we’re glad you’re back. I want to thank you for your strong leadership, and we wish you all the very best. Thank you, sir. Appreciate you.

NOTE: The President’s news conference began at 10:57 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gen. William E. “Kip” Ward, USA, Senior U.S. Security Coordinator, Department of State; James D. Wolfensohn, Quartet Special Envoy for Gaza Disengagement; and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. President Abbas and some reporters spoke in Arabic, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter.

### **Statement on House of Representatives Passage of the Proposed “Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act”**

*October 20, 2005*

I commend the House for passing the “Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act.” Our laws should punish criminals who use guns to commit crimes, not law-abiding manufacturers of lawful products. This legislation will further our efforts to stem frivolous lawsuits, which cause a logjam in America’s courts, harm America’s small businesses, and benefit a handful of lawyers at the ex-

pense of victims and consumers. I look forward to signing this legislation into law.

NOTE: The statement referred to S. 397.

### **Proclamation 7950—United Nations Day, 2005**

*October 20, 2005*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

Sixty years ago, the United Nations was created to spread hope and liberty, fight poverty and disease, and help secure human rights and human dignity for people everywhere. On United Nations Day, we recommit ourselves to the ideals on which this organization was founded.

Throughout history, the human spirit has been tested by the forces of darkness and evil. Since its founding in the aftermath of World War II, the United Nations has worked to solve problems and harness the best instincts of humankind. Today, we must continue efforts to ease suffering, spread freedom, and lay the foundations of lasting peace for our children and grandchildren.

In the aftermath of last year’s tsunami in the Indian Ocean region and this month’s earthquakes in South Asia, we have witnessed the great capacity of human compassion. The support from the United Nations demonstrated how nations of the world can unite in common purpose to address difficult challenges. This enduring truth inspired those who created the United Nations, and it continues to do so 60 years later. With courage and conscience, we will meet our responsibilities to protect the lives and rights of others. As we do this, we will help fulfill the great promise of the United Nations, ensuring that all people can enjoy the peace, freedom, and dignity our Creator intended.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 24, 2005, as United Nations Day. I urge the Governors of the 50 States, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the officials